



News from Congressman

Tom Lantos

**12th Congressional District of California
San Mateo/San Francisco**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 30, 2004

FOR INFORMATION CALL
Lynne Weil (202) 225-6735

Lantos Irrevocably Opposes Constitutional Amendment to Ban Gay Marriage, Decries Divisive Tactics

Washington, D.C. - In response to the contentious debate in the House of Representatives today about a proposed Constitutional amendment that would effectively ban gay marriage, Congressman Tom Lantos (D-San Francisco, San Mateo) reaffirmed his reasons for voting against it, and decried the blatantly political timing of the debate.

"I oppose discrimination in any form, including restrictions on rights based on gender preference," Lantos said. "Writing discriminatory provisions into the Constitution goes against our national history of progress toward equal rights for all. Introducing a bill in the House to do so, when the matter has already failed to gain the Senate's support, is a waste of legislators' dwindling time as we head toward the end of the 108th Congress, and we have so much important work that is not yet done. This serves only to force a vote on a divisive issue just weeks before the November elections."

Lantos voted against the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act, which defined marriage for purposes of federal law as the legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife. He is the co-founder and co-chairman of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus.

###